	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Crude oil imports (MMT)	57.81	74.10	78.71
Crude oil import value (in Rs. crore)	40,028	65,932	60,397

Cost of production of LPG

71. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase LPG price;

(b) if so, the reasons for the proposed increase; and

(c) the details of the efforts made by Government to reduce the cost of production of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the extant Government policy, the subsidy on domestic LPG is on a flat rate basis effective 1st April 2002 and the retail prices will vary as per price changes in the international oil market.

(c) Oil refining being continuous process industry with multi product output, product-wise cost of production is not worked out. However, some of the cost cutting measures adopted by the oil companies include improvement in the capacity utilization of LPG bottling plants, reduction in transportation costs by setting up bottling plants in a dispersed manner, etc.

Oil reserves with public sector oil companies

72. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of oil reserves with various public sector oil companies;

(b) whether any assessment on strategic petroleum reserves has been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The stocks of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies (including those in transit) are sufficient to provide for a cover for around two months for major petroleum products, except for LPG for which the cover is around one month.

(b) and (c) In addition to the existing crude oil and product storages available with the oil companies, the Government is contemplating to provide strategic tankage for crude oil gradually in phases with a view to achieve 45 days covers.

Potential of oil and gas in Himalayan Region

† 73. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of Government has now been drawn to the potentiality of oil and gas in the Himalayan region as per scientific data regarding presence of petrol and gas in that area; and

(b) if so, the details of amount likely to be spent on this and for how may years this programme is likely to go on and by when the success is likely to be achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Since last 50 years, National Oil Companies (NOCs), namely Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), have carried out exploration activities in the Himalayan region with the basic objective of identifying prospective areas for hydrocarbons. During Tenth Plan, NOCs, have envisaged acquisition of 425 Ground Line Kilometres (GLK) of 2 D seismic data and drill 3 exploratory wells in this region, with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 83 crores. In addition, Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH) has planned for an aeromagnetics survey in the Himalayan region and Ganga

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.